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Chapter
7

IF THE COMMON PEOPLE COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE IMPERIAL PRESENCE, IT IS SAID THAT DIVINE PUNISHMENT WILL OCCUR.
YOUR MAJESTY
splish splash
HAS YOUR COLD IMPROVED?
THE COURT PHYSICIAN HAS ARRIVED FOR YOUR AFTERNOON CHECKUP

plunk
IF I MAY HUMBLY OFFER THE DIAGNOSIS
rustle
squeak
Furry
YOUR MAJESTY...?
...
wag
wag

Your Majesty!?
...IT SEEMS THAT SUKE HAS NOTICED, MISONO.
Hip
YOUR MAJESTY, ARE YOU REALLY FEELING BETTER?
DIPLOMAS NEED TO BE SIGNED
WHY ARE THEY SO WORRIED OVER A LIGHT COLD?
BUT YOUR MAJESTY...

THE IMPERIAL NAME IS UPSIDE DOWN.
士綾
.....
...AH
IF I REST, REPORTS AND EDICTS WILL BE DELAYED
I THOUGHT ALL MY ROLES WERE INSIDE
I WON'T BE PITIED
AH-CHOO
IT WAS UNUSUAL FOR HER MAJESTY TO CATCH A COLD
IN THE SEASON WHEN PLUMS RIPENED
IT WILL AFFECT THE GOVERN-MENT
.....

deep breath
NO!
BEING ABLE TO WORK IS YOUR WORK.
WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MISONO?
Uhmm
USING THE WRITING BRUSH IS BOTHERING YOUR EYES.
YOU WILL BE ABLE TO WORK IF YOU STAY IN YOUR ROOM SLEEPING.
SURELY THAT KIND OF THING IS ALSO PART OF YOUR WORK.
Uhmm
Uhmm
ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULD REST?
Yeah
.....
I UNDERSTAND

Whoops
YOUR MAJESTY!
THEN YOUR WORDS WILL DESCRIBE MY "WORK"
slip
WOBBLE
gasp
IF-
WAAH
IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME!
IT IS FORBIDDEN TO TOUCH HER MAJESTY.
ONLY THE COURT PHYSICIAN IS EXCEPTED.
TURN
hehe
YOUR HAND WAS PLEASANTLY COOL.

THE DIVINE PUNISHMENT IS ONLY A SUPERSTITION
Your Majesty!
In a place like this...
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD TOUCHED HER MAJESTY
DID SHE HAVE A FEVER?
SHE WAS SURPRISINGLY WARM
CAW
CAW
MASTER, I'M GOING OUT TO BUY MORE WRITING PAPER

YEAH
Going there
OTOMI,
WHO IS THAT MAID?
MASTER, THAT IS ORITSU!
ORITSU HAD BAD EYES!?
before
THE YOUNG MASTER GAVE HER GLASSES.
KIMIYORI'S AN EXTRAVAGANT GUY.
HE'S ALREADY GOT HIS HANDS ON THE MAID!?
!
fehehe
Doing those kinds of things.

Why would you speak that way to your master!!
WAAH
THE YOUNG MASTER ISN'T LIKE THAT!!
BROTHER
THEY ARE ONLY SECONDHAND FROM MY FRIEND
The suspicions of a sleeze-bag...
Friend Kuroda
YOU CAME BACK QUICKLY TODAY WERE YOU FIRED FROM THE PALACE?
I'M NOT LIKE YOU!
TODAY HER MAJESTY...
DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PALACE
Welcome back!
YOUNG MASTER!

THE NATION WOULD BE IN CRISIS!!
IT WOULD ONLY CAUSE UNNECESSARY ANXIETY
FOR THE COUNTRY TO KNOW OF HER MAJESTY'S ILLNESS.
I MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT I SAY,
PARTICULARLY ABOUT HER MAJESTY'S CONDITION.
YOUNG MASTER?
The Grand Chamberlain is already anxious
Writing paper?
IT'S NOTHING
Okay
IT'S JUST A LITTLE BUSINESS I NEED TO FINISH
THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THINGS LIKE HUMAN FEELINGS AND THE COUNTRY.

WOULD IT BE WRONG TO MERELY WORRY ABOUT HER MAJESTY?
bon
IT'S BEEN FOUR DAYS SINCE HER MAJESTY LAST WENT OUT.
bon
THE PALACE LADIES HAVE BEEN NURSING HER MAJESTY ALL NIGHT IN THE INNER PALACE,
EARNESTLY TRYING TO LOWER HER FEVER
IS IT REALLY ONLY A COLD?
WHAT IS THE DOCTOR DOING!?
.....
WHY ARE THEY WEARING THOSE CLOTHES...?
clack
clack
clack
*A charm using the sound of bowstrings.
IT'S MEIGEN* FOR RECOVERY FROM ILLNESS.

HUH?
TWANG
IT'S AN UNUSUAL TREATMENT FOR HER MAJESTY, AN EXORCISM.
THE PALACE CUSTOMS
SIGH
GO THIS FAR...
WHINE
IT'S MY FAULT
SINCE I SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWED THE IMPERIAL EDICT...

TOO COMFORTABLE WITHIN THIS CAGE
I WAS TOO FREE WITH HER MAJESTY,
I SHOULD BE THROWN OUT OF IT!
HEY YOU!
reach
YEAH, YOU! IS IT POSSIBLE YOU CAME FROM THE SOUTHEAST GATE?
DO YOU WORK IN THE PALACE
AS A STUDENT CHAMBER-LAIN'S ATTENDANT?
WHO IS THIS MAN?
YEAH...
?

IS IT TRUE THAT HER MAJESTY IS ILL?
EXCUSE ME, I'M IN A HURRY!
AH~ MR. ATTENDANT, PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT IT.
MY business card
HEY! I'M SAEKI FROM THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL DAILY NEWS.
.....
YOU KNOW I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IN THE PALACE! OR ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS AROUND IT!
AH, BUT
RECENTLY, HAS HIS HIGHNESS ROKUJOUIN-NO-MIYA TAKEHIKO NOT BEEN VISITING THE PALACE!?

ROKUJOUIN-NO-MIYA-SAMA ASKED TO REVOKE HIS ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COUNT'S DAUGHTER
IT'S A RUMOR.
Let me go!
WELL,
uwaah
DON'T GO!
TIGHTLY
plop
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
annoyed
OH?

MIYA-SAMA FIRMLY STATED THAT HE DID NOT WANT THE MARRIAGE.
HE WAS NOT ABLE TO PERSUADE THE SOU-CHITSURYO *
NO WAY!
HE'S ALREADY RECEIVED THE EMPEROR'S PERMISSION.
YES, ACCORDING TO MY INVESTI-GATIONS,
UNTIL PERMISSION WAS GRANTED, NEITHER FAMILY MADE ANY WEDDING PREPARATIONS AT ALL.
IT COULDN'T BE ABOUT HER MAJESTY...
HE HASN'T GIVEN UP YET?

*Souchitsuryou= The office the Miya family is in charge of

MR ATTENDANT?
Sigh
COULD YOU TELL ME IN MORE DETAIL?
ABOUT THE CHANGE IN HER MAJESTY'S SITUATION
OF COURSE NOT!
PLEASE~ THE MASSES HAVE AN IMMENSE INTEREST IN NOBLES
ESPECIALLY IN THE YOUNG AND LOVELY EMPEROR CONVEYING THIS SITUATION ON THE PAGES WILL DOUBLE SALES
HEY! SO,
I CAN GIVE YOU REWARD MONEY! MR. ATTENDANT,
GRAB
IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME I'VE SERIALIZED THE WORDS OF A FORMER ATTENDANT.

IT WAS CALLED "MEMORIES OF THE PALACE"!
Please read it!
IT'S A RUMOR! IT'S MISINFORMATION!
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THE MIYA FAMILY'S ENGAGEMENT BEING BROKEN OFF
AND WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT MEMORIES OF THE PALACE"!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
A FORMER ATTENDANT WOULD NEVER
SELL THE STORIES OF INSIDE THE PALACE FOR MONEY.
A FORMER ATTEND-ANT
.....
Hehe
EXACTLY. I SENT HIM A NOTE ABOUT IT.
WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED, KIMIYORI?

IT'S MY DUTY TO REPORT THE TRUTH OF THE PALACE TO THE MASSES!
I WAS REALLY FIRED UP!
A FORMER ATTENDANT WHO WAS FIRED ON HIS FIRST DAY OF WORK.
BROTHER!!
BUT, IN THE END,
IT WAS ONLY THE INDICATION OF A STORM IN THE CAPITAL THAT DAY

STOMP
STOMP
PLEASE, WAIT TO BE ANNOUNCED...!
HER MAJESTY'S ILLNESS
WAS DISCOVERED BY THIS GENTLEMAN
STOMP
ROKUOUIN-NO-MIYA-SAMA!!
I'M REQUESTING AN AUDIENCE WITH HER MAJESTY!
STOMP
GRAND CHAMBERLAIN!!

THE PHYSICIANS ARE USING ALL THEIR ENERGY TO CURE HER MAJESTY...
.....
PHYSICIANS?
DO THEY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WESTERN MEDICINE?
HOW CAN THEY CURE HER MAJESTY IF THEY DON'T TOUCH HER!
.....
BUT THEY WON'T PUT A NEEDLE IN HER MAJESTY'S BODY.
WHAT ABOUT AN INJEC-TION?
THEY COULD GIVE NUTRIENTS WITH AN INJECTION.
THEY CAN... ADMINISTER MEDICINE...

I WILL GIVE HER THE INJECTION
IT'S MY DUTY!
CLATTER
MOREOVER, HER MAJESTY SHOULD BE EXAMINED TOMORROW BY DR. ORFF OF THE IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY'S FACULTY!
MIYA-SAMA!?
ALLOWING A FOREIGN DOCTOR TO CARE FOR HER MAJESTY...
HE'S MY FRIEND NOW, CALL HIM BACK TO THE CAPITAL RIGHT AWAY
I NEED TO SEE HER MAJESTY'S CONDITION
turn
MIYA-SAMA! PLEASE WAIT. DO NOT ENTER THE INNER PALACE!
step
step
STOP HIM, MISONO!

ARE YOU GOING TO STOP ME
FROM ENTERING THOSE DOORS AGAIN?
MISONO.
.....
NO!

IF YOU COME WITH THE DOCTOR,
I WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE DOORS!
EVEN IF IT VIOLATES THE CUSTOMS OF THE PALACE,
I WILL TAKE YOU TO HER MAJESTY.
FOR ME,
SOMETHING LIKE THIS IS ALL I CAN DO.

IS THIS THE ONLY THING I CAN DO?
NO,
SO, PLEASE BRING THE DOCTOR SOON. HER MAJESTY'S ILLNESS
I... THE PEOPLE OF THE PALACE CAN DO NOTHING
IT IS THE ONLY THING I WILL ASK OF YOU!

...TCH
I DON'T NEED YOUR PERMISSION,
BUT I WILL PASS THROUGH THE DOORS WITH THE DOCTOR!
step
IF LEFT TO ALL OF YOU,
THE CAGED BIRD WILL DIE
step
step
IT'S POSTPONED FOR NOW
MISONO.

TASTING MY OWN WEAKNESS IS POST-PONED
PLEASE KEEP WATCH TONIGHT
THERE IS A SMALL CHANCE THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY TONIGHT
MIYA-SAMA ORDERED AN INJECTION
THE PHYSICIANS HAVE SAID THAT TONIGHT WILL BE DIFFICULT
YES, SIR
FOR NOW, THERE IS SOMETHING I SHOULD DO
rumble
rumble
YOUNG MASTER
YOU WILL HAVE TO HURRY BACK FOR THE NIGHT WATCH
Here are your clothes
I HEARD THAT THE STORM TONIGHT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS!

I DON'T THINK THAT YOU NEED TO GO THAT FAR.
IT'S OFFICIAL BUSINESS FOR HER MAJESTY.
.....
THE EMPEROR HAS A LOT OF SERVANTS.
YOU'RE USING YOUR WHOLE HEART,
AND SERVING IS WEARING YOU OUT.
THE EMPEROR AND YOUNG MASTER'S POSITIONS ARE
ORITSU!

gasp
I'M LEAVING
IT'S POSPONED FOR NOW
RUMBLE
crash
crash
crash
tap
tap
RAINING

raining
RRRRRR
WE'RE VERY SORRY, YOUR HIGHNESS.
THE WHEELS ARE STUCK IN THE MUD...
sulk
.....
RRRRRRR
YOU SEEM TO BE IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION.
heave
ho!

*SFX = Raining
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME ASSISTANCE?
HAS THE MAN WHO AIDED ME BEEN GIVEN A REWARD?
NO, SIR.
HE WISHES TO MEET WITH YOUR HIGHNESS.
The bu bu collar
smile
smile

WHAT...!
PLEASE LEAVE US.
And change his clothes.
WHY DID YOU BREAK OFF YOUR ENGAGEMENT?
Imperial Daily News
Saeki
bu
It's too long!
bu
A NEWSPAPER REPORTER? WHAT'S YOUR MOTIVE? MONEY?
Rustling
OF COURSE NOT!
I ONLY SEEK THE TRUTH.
smile
AS YOU SAY, I NEVER INTENDED TO MARRY THE COUNT'S DAUGHTER

breathes
MY QUEEN WILL BE THE MEIDI EMPEROR'S DAUGHTER-
THE CURRENT EMPEROR.
THANKS TO THE INJECTION,
HER FEVER HAS LOWERED!
Waah
WONDERFUL!!
You must be exhausted
PLEASE REST A LITTLE, MISONO-SAN
NO, I'LL WAIT HERE
oh

Meiji Emperor
Younger brother, Crown Prince
Older sister, Akiko
SURELY YOU KNOW THAT THE CHILD WILL INHERIT THE THRONE AFTER HE GROWS UP AND EMPEROR AKIKO ABDICATES.
THE EMPEROR'S DAUGHTER PLANS TO ABDICATE AND STAY UNMARRIED HER WHOLE LIFE...
Abdicate when he grows up
UMM, EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, MIYA-SAMA,
That's right, Miya-sama's queen must be the emperor's daughter...
bu
bu
BUT DON'T YOU THINK THOSE OLD-FASHIONED IDEAS SHOULD CHANGE?
Sigh
I WAS THE MAN THE MEIDI EMPEROR THOUGHT WAS CAPABLE I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS GIVEN A RING
AFTER HER ABDICATION I WANT TO WELCOME HER MAJESTY AKIKO AS MY QUEEN

PLEASE GET BETTER SOON
RAINING
Fwoosh
THE SOUCHIT-SURYOU HAS SINGLE-MINDEDLY UNDERMINED ME WITH THE IMPERIAL PERMISSION THAT WAS GRANTED.
THE COUNT'S FAMILY ALSO DECLINED TO BREAK THE ENGAGEMENT BECAUSE THE RUMORS WOULD HURT THE GIRL.
What?
Really?
WRITE IT.

BUT THEY'LL GIVE UP IF IT'S PRINTED IN THE PAPER
YOU CAN WRITE THE ARTICLE
I UNDER-STAND
smile
THE MASSES WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE LIVES OF THE NOBILITY
HOWEVER-
bu bu
.....
ESPECIALLY SCANDALS AND MOVING STORIES...

shove
Ah!
nodding off
nodding off
flop
Y-Your Majes
slide

MISONO
YOUR "WORK" IS FINISHED
MISONO
uh
YOU SHOULD REST, SO YOU WON'T HURT YOURSELF WHILE "WORKING".

YOUR MAJESTY!
You're awake?
SHHH
THE PALACE LADIES ARE SLEEPING
GETTING EXHAUSTED OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT... IT'S KIND OF PITIFUL
WHAT ABOUT YOUR FEVER!?
IT'S DOWN
grab
IT'S OKAY
WE NEED TO CALL THE PHYSICIANS!
HERE
touch
TOUCH ME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF

THE FEVER'S ALREADY GONE, ISN'T IT?
WELL, MISONO?

DON'T WORRY.
GRACIOUSLY
SHE ALLOWED ME TO TOUCH HER AGAIN
IT'S NOT..

AS I THOUGHT, I NEED TO CALL THE PHYSICIANS!!
BLUSH
Y-YOU'RE STILL NOT BETTER.
step
I DID NOT KNOW IF I MYSELF HAD A FEVER
DOES HE HAVE A FEVER?

huff
IS THE ONLY TIME I TOUCH HER..
BUT, WHAT IF THAT
GREAT!
SHE'S GOTTEN BETTER!
huff
huff
I'M NEVER WASHING THIS.
Yeah
RON,
IT'S GREAT! HER MAJESTY HAS RE-COVERED
Oh
whine
whine
It's great!
twitch

BITES
grrr
THIS WAS THE METHOD THE HEAVENS
USED TO PUNISH ME FOR TOUCHING HER MAJESTY
OTOMI! THE NEWS-PAPER, THE NEWS-PAPER!
SO,
OUCH
.....
flip flip
OKAY OKAY
grasp
"MEMORIES OF THE PALACE"!
MY SERIES BEGINS TODAY.

chatter
NO, I'M SORRY VISCOUNT MISONO
chatter chatter
Imperial Capital Daily News
WE HAD TO REPLACE IT WITH A SCOOP THAT NEEDED TO BE PRINTED IN A HURRY
YES, PLEASE FORGIVE US
fwoosh
clank
KA-BOOM
WHERE IS IT?
Mr. Master?
BUT THIS WAS
(=^・・^=) Imperial Capital Daily News
A moving tale!! Prince Takekito's love for Her Majesty.
Rokuouin-no-Miya Takehito's engagement cancelled!
Abrubt cancellation filled with anxiety
The Imperial Household Department in conference
Count Ito's daughter, Princess Kyouko
NOT THE ONLY DIVINE PUNISHMENT THAT I WAS TO RECEIVE